

22 OCT 70 14 30z

NMCC CWB

GAC  
TAD  
DOC  
BW  
FILE

4899  
COR COPY

VVVZCZCMM104  
NMCC

T O P S E C R E T

ACTION  
DISTR OPR CJCS DJS SJCS(83) J1(83) J3(12) J4(83) J5(82) J6(84) NMCC  
SECDEF(83) ADDIISA(83) CSA CSAF CNO CMC DIA(20) NMCC RAIR(81)  
ANMCC NEACP FILE(1)  
(839)

JCS action on DCI's memo  
for assistance - Laos Air Support  
FILE

TRANSIT/221426Z/221427Z/6881870RFB493  
DE RUEKJCS #4857 2951487

221426Z OCT 70

FM JCS

TO RUHHHQA/CINOPAC  
INFO RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV  
RHHMFTA/COMUSMACVTHAI  
RHHMFTA/DEPCHJUSMAB BANGKOK THAI  
BT

JCS review completed

T O P S E C R E T 4899

JCS SEND  
SUBJ: WITHDRAWAL OF A-1 SQUADRONS FROM THAILAND (C)

REF: JCSM 282-76 OF 30 APRIL 70 (NOTAL)  
1. (TS) REF IS THE CONSOLIDATED RVNAF IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES FOR FOUR SQUADRONS OF A-1 AIRCRAFT FOR THE VNAF. CURRENTLY APPROVED BANNER SUN REDEPLOYMENTS WILL REMOVE TOTAL ASSETS OF THE HBAF -- SQUADRONS PRESENTLY IN THAILAND BY 30 JUNE 71 WITH THE AIRCRAFT GOING TO RVNAF AS PLANNED IN REFERENCE.  
2. (TS) RECENT CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO OSD BY STATE AND CIA REGARDING AIR SUPPORT IN LAOS INCIDENT TO THE REMOVAL OF THE A-1'S FROM THAILAND. THE LETTER FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT (ALEXIS JOHNSON) REFERS TO REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR GODLEY AND STATES: WHILE THE B-57-68 AND AC-130S ARE VERY EFFECTIVE AND WILL HAVE TO BE USED PRIMARILY FOR INTERDICTION PURPOSES, THEY DO NOT AND CANNOT FILL THE ROLES OF CAP, ASSAULT PREPARATION, SUPPORTING TROOPS-IN-CONTACT, AND STRIKING ENEMY GROUND FORCE CONCENTRATIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF INDIGENOUS FORWARD AIR GUIDES (FAG'S) AS CAN THE A-1'S. ALSO, AS WE KNOW, THE F-4S ARE NOT AS CAPABLE OF MEETING THESE REQUIREMENTS. THUS HE FEELS, AND I AGREE, THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE WE SHOULD FIND SOME WAY OF RETAINING ONE OF THE A-1 SQUADRONS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 12 MONTHS BEYOND THE PRESENT 1971 REDEPLOYMENT DATE."

THE LETTER FROM THE CIA (RICHARD HELMS) STATES IN PART: MY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT

PAGE 1

T O P S E C R E T

00111011

GAC  
~~FAS~~  
 DOC  
 BW  
 14855

TOP SECRET

OF STATE AND AMBASSADOR GODLEY IN VIENTIANE. IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE JUDGMENT THAT THE A-1 WEAPON SYSTEM HAS A NUMBER OF VALUABLE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH, FOR OUR PURPOSES, ARE SUPERIOR TO THE FASTER MOVING JET AIRCRAFT. I WOULD LIKE, THEREFORE, TO RECOMMEND THAT ONE SQUADRON OF A-1 AIRCRAFT BE RETAINED FOR USE IN LAOS AFTER JUNE 1971."

(C) COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED BY 29 OCT 1970 ON THE STATE/CIA RECOMMENDATION TO RETAIN ONE A-1 SQUADRON IN THAILAND (25 AIRCRAFT; 100 SPACES) FOR USE IN LAOS AFTER JUNE 71. THE COMMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A. EVALUATION OF THE NEED FOR THIS PARTICULAR KIND OF WEAPON SYSTEM IN LAOS.
- B. THE IMPACT ON VIETNAMIZATION IF THE REDEPLOYMENT PLAN IS ALTERED AS PROPOSED.
- C. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RETENTION OF SOME A-1S FOR LAOS AND THE OVERALL SORTIE LEVELS FOR SEA.
- D. THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING OFF OTHER SPACES AND/OR UNITS IN THAILAND SO THAT THE A-1 SQUADRON COULD BE KEPT IN PLACE WITHIN THE 30 JUNE 1971 CEILING OF 32,200 MILITARY PERSONNEL.
- E. THE BUDGET AND SPACE AUTHORIZATION IMPLICATIONS OF CONTINUING TO OPERATE SOME USAF A-1S FROM THAILAND DURING FY-72 ABOVE CURRENT CEILINGS.
- F. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR MEETING LAOS SORTIE REQUIREMENTS.

GP-3

14857

ANNOTES  
 NUMBER COPIES  
 NMF  
 OJCS FIVE COPIES  
 DIA THREE COPIES

WACC 020

PAGE 2

TOP SECRET 14 OCT 1970 00111011

NNNN

*BEST COPY*  
*Available*